



AUSTIN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR
2020



WE CREATE COMMUNITY

MISSION Inspire Austin to learn, play, protect and connect by creating diverse programs and experiences in sustainable natural spaces and public places.

A Note from Our Leadership

FISCAL YEAR
2020

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Cover and page 18 photo of 'PARKSPACE' at Republic Square Park, by Ryan Conway, Summer, 2020.

This report is for the City of Austin's 2020 Fiscal Year, which ran from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

Executive Leadership

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

- Kimberly A. McNeeley, M.Ed, CPRP, Director
- Liana Kallivoka, PhD, PE, Assistant Director
- Lucas Massie, M.Ed., CPRP, Assistant Director
- Anthony Segura, MPA, MS, Assistant Director
- Suzanne Piper, DBA, Chief Administrative Officer

Board Leadership

Parks and Recreation Board

- Dawn Lewis, Chair
- Romteen Farasat, Vice Chair
- Laura Cottam Sajbel, Board Member
- Richard DePalma, Board Member
- Anna L. Di Carlo, Board Member
- Sarah B. Faust, Board Member
- Francoise Luca, Board Member
- Kate Mason-Murphy, Board Member
- Fred Morgan, Board Member
- Nina Rinaldi, Board Member
- Kimberly Taylor, Board Member



Kimberly McNeeley, M.Ed, CPRP

Director

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

This year, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) performed the work of "Creating Community" under extraordinary conditions. The team's dedication to public service reached new heights. PARD shifted focus to provide new and innovative virtual programming opportunities, created new operational procedures and protocols to allow for the safe access to park amenities, and modified operations to allow employees to safely perform maintenance tasks, basic park servicing and construction projects.

In addition to the extraordinary work as a response to the pandemic, PARD coordinated food distribution operations, operated youth camp programming for essential workers, staffed the Emergency Operations Center, and supported initiatives to help individuals experiencing homelessness.

Now more than ever, it is clear the spaces and places throughout the Austin Park System are essential to the community's quality of life. Under these exceptional circumstances, PARD proved to be an exceptional team. I am proud of the team's response, resilience, and perseverance through the toughest of times. I cannot emphasize enough the gratitude I feel toward the PARD team for continuing the most important work of 'Creating Community' at a time when it was needed most. PARD looks forward to a future where people can once again connect with our diverse community in person.



Dawn Lewis

Chair

Austin Parks and Recreation Board

This has been a challenging year in so many ways. This pandemic has brought forth many changes, but one thing that has been apparent is that we have seen how much our community needs and appreciates the parks, green spaces and amenities that play such a vital role in our city. As we experienced stay at home orders and social distancing, we witnessed Austinites head to these precious spaces to run, to hike, to play and just to experience nature.

Like so many organizations and businesses, the City and PARD worked to navigate the challenges of this pandemic, and to provide a balance of safety and access of park spaces to our citizenry. Balancing those needs was and is challenging.

Parks and green spaces are special places. We go to them to escape, to get away, to reflect, to exercise, to learn, to play, for shared social experiences, and to take in nature and experience joy. With climate change, parks mitigate the urban heat island effect, improve air quality, and absorb carbon from the atmosphere. What should not be forgotten this year is that of all the services and amenities we treasure in our city, our need for parkland and greenspace is one that we need on so many levels.

It is an honor to work with the hardworking PARD staff, my fellow board members and all those partners and friends across the community who share the common mission and who work to make our parks and green spaces even better, equitable across Austin, and places we can all enjoy for years to come.

PARD BY THE NUMBERS

PARD has been the steward of the City of Austin's public lands since 1928. As such, we protect and maintain parkland and our urban forest. We preserve and restore natural resources and historic places, maintain trails, and offer a variety of sports, recreation, educational enrichment, arts programs, cultural opportunities, and aquatic activities.



19,764	RECREATION ACRES
299	Parks
258	Miles of Trails
34	Pools
10	Splash Pads
26	Community Gardens
166	Playgrounds
116	Picnic Shelters
13	Off-leash Areas
8	Performing Arts Venues
12	Museums and Cultural Centers
23	Recreation and Senior Centers
100	Tennis Courts
38	Multipurpose Courts
56	Basketball Courts
76	Baseball & Softball Fields
6	Disc Golf Courses
12	Gaga Ball Courts
3	Bocce Ball Courts
46	Volleyball Courts
70	Mixed-Use Fields
6	Golf Courses
25	Soccer Fields
21	Historic Buildings
5	Cemeteries

2020
FISCAL YEAR

OVERVIEW AND PROGRESS ON GOALS

AUSTIN STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2023

SD23

The Austin Strategic Direction 2023 (SD23) is the blueprint for city-wide initiatives. City departments align resources and strategies with the goal of having the broadest reach while maintaining efficient operations.

SD23 is aligned with OUR IMAGINE AUSTIN VISION “Austin as a beacon of sustainability, social equity and economic opportunity; where diversity and creativity are celebrated; where community needs and values are recognized; where leadership comes from its citizens and where the necessities of life are affordable and accessible to all.”



PARD GOALS:



Align accessible and diverse programs and services with community needs and interests.



Activate and enhance urban park spaces to provide flexible and diverse programming.

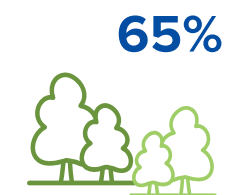


Ensure that the parks system preserves recreational and natural spaces to serve as a respite from urban life.



Expand and improve access to parks and facilities for all.

PARD has been tracking access to parks and open spaces since 2009. In the past, this metric only accounted for distance and not physical barriers encountered during a walk to a park. In FY19, the Park Planning Division was able to improve on the methodology and now accounts for physical barriers encountered during a walk to a park or open space from one's home. This improvement is a more accurate account of park and green-space accessibility.



65% Percentage of residents who have access to parks and open spaces (live within one-quarter mile in urban core and within one-half mile outside of urban core).

SUPPORT SERVICES



BUDGETED FULL-TIME STAFF **734.75**
 TEMPORARY & PART-TIME STAFF **1,181**
 UNITS AND DIVISIONS **113**

PARD STAFF PROMOTIONS **34**
 NEW FULL TIME STAFF **36**
 MILITARY VETERANS HIRED **5**
 TEMPORARY HIRES **368**

INSPECTIONS COMPLETED **415**
 SAFETY CLASSES DELIVERED **150**
 EMPLOYEES TRAINED **1,871**
 STAFF HOURS OF TRAINING **39,665**

GRANT FUNDING TOTAL **\$249,122**
 AFFILIATIONS WITH NON-PROFITS **49**
 REC TRAC HOUSEHOLDS CREATED **49,296**
 PROGRAMS MANAGED **1,746**

Financial Services

Contracts, Procurements and Grants
 PARD fostered relationships with 49 nonprofit groups to provide services to Austin at no cost to the department. The department was also successful in obtaining a new grant with the St. David's Foundation.

Accounting

In FY20, PARD's Accounting Team consistently processed all accounts payable invoices within the state mandated AP 30-day turnaround requirement. For the most recent quarter, PARD invoices were paid on average within 15 days, well below the 30-day requirement.

Information Systems Management

The Information Systems Management Team continues to improve service to the public through RecTrac, PARD's customer registration and reservation system. PARD delivered service through multiple mechanisms, both online across 10 system modules and in person at 47 unique park locations.



HUMAN RESOURCES

COVID-19 Update

Due to COVID-19, public and private organizations took measures to reduce the risk of exposures to the virus. PARD was impacted by a hiring freeze and since then, very few positions have been filled. Throughout the pandemic, precautions have been taken to keep PARD employees safe while at work. This includes increased deep sanitization and cleaning of work locations, having employees wear face coverings, and engaging in hand washing and social distancing practices.

Safety

Safe and Healthy Work Environment: PARD promotes the health and personal safety of each employee. Providing a safe and healthy workplace is of primary importance in all phases of operation and administration.

Fostering Growth and Opportunity

The PARD Human Resources Team provides quality services which support the recruitment of qualified job applicants, the growth and advancement of employees and provides training and education to develop and promote employee success.

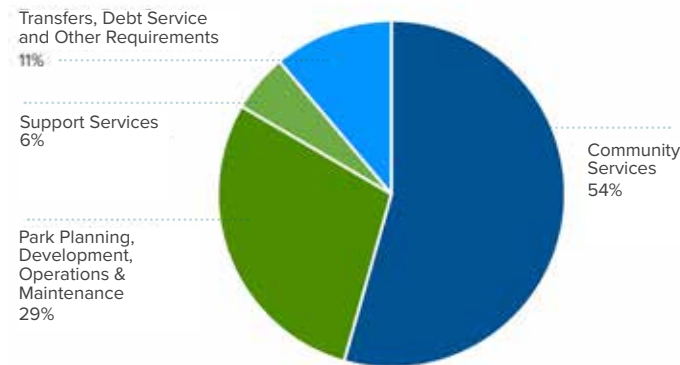
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FISCAL YEAR
2020

Funding by Program

Community Services	\$57,890,195
Park Planning, Development, Operations & Maintenance	\$30,900,891
Support Services	\$5,749,161
Transfers, Debt Service, and Other Requirements	\$11,886,027
Total Budget by Program	\$106,426,274

Funding by Program



Revenue by Source

Charges for Services/Goods	\$11,613,598
Licenses, Permits, and Inspections	\$5,551
Other Revenue	\$200,872
Transfers In	\$1,000,000
Use of Money and Property	\$1,076,141
Total Actual Revenue	\$13,896,162

FY2020 EXPENDITURES

Capital Projects by Category

Aquatics	\$2,948,264
Athletics	\$726,048
Buildings and Improvements	\$12,933,597
Cemeteries	\$115,831
Golf	\$1,235,035
Land Acquisition	\$3,057,390
Parks	\$21,771,801
Plans and Studies	\$320,320
Playscapes	\$4,307,764
Trails	\$383,795
Total Projects by Category	\$47,799,845

Grants

Capital Improvement Projects	\$1,944,299
General Fund	\$197,320
Total Grants	\$2,141,619

Personnel

Personnel Full-Time Equivalents	732.75
Grant Full-Time Equivalents	2.00
Total FTEs	734.75

ASSET MANAGEMENT

PRESERVING ASSETS AND FACILITIES

The Asset Management Division's mission is to develop and maintain data management infrastructure so that PARD can plan for the lifecycle management of its assets. The team has spent the past few years on a project transitioning the department's work order and asset management system from MicroMain to Maximo. Maximo will be integrated with the department's GIS data and offer mobile and offline solutions for service requests and work order management. To prepare for the transition, the team has completed inventories and condition assessments of thousands of assets systemwide to ensure PARD has an accurate baseline in the new system. The team also led PARD's transition to ArcGIS Pro software, becoming the first City department to complete the move.

Capital Improvement Program

In FY20, PARD's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) reached \$47.8 million in capital spending, a record amount for the second consecutive year. A number of significant construction projects were completed this year, including:

- Alliance Children's Garden District 9
- Colony Park District Park District 1
- Montopolis Recreation and Community Center District 3
- George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center Expansion District 2
- Georgian Acres Neighborhood Park District 4
- Liz Carpenter Fountain District 9
- Tanglewood Neighborhood Park District 6
- Walsh Boat Landing District 10

Now 18 months into implementation, Propositions B and C of the 2018 General Obligation Bond program have funded almost 90 PARD projects and land acquisitions. The largest projects in the program, Phase II of the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, the Dougherty Arts Center Replacement, and the new Colony Park Pool and Givens Pool Renovation had design contracts approved by Council in summer 2020 and will spend the coming year in the design phase.



Tanglewood Neighborhood Park

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PARD's Communications and Engagement Unit (CEU) supports an Austin community that is connected to its parks, recreation and cultural facilities, and programs through community engagement. In FY20, the team collaborated across the department and with park partners to directly involve residents in making decisions about Austin's parks and recreation system.

CITY OF AUSTIN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRINCIPLES

- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Consistency
- Respect and Stewardship

Community Engagement is the practice of directly involving the community in a decision-making process. It is a practice that aims to recognize the importance of public input to the development of policies, decision-making, and planning.



DEC 2019

Community Engagement Continued through the Pandemic



Since March 2020, PARD and our partners completed the following online opportunities with community members:

18
MEETINGS

10
SURVEYS



The final in-person community meeting took place on February 29, 2020. In early March, as the COVID-19 pandemic prevented physical gatherings, PARD shifted all engagement to the emerging digital world while also returning to the "old days" of making phone calls.

MOVING TOWARD EQUITY IN PARD

The pandemic has spotlighted disproportionate outcomes for people of color throughout Austin. However, many of these disparities existed pre-pandemic. A long history of systemic racism and racial inequity exists in Austin, a primary example being the 1928 Master Plan, which effectively segregated the city and also created the Parks Department. Though PARD was officially integrated in 1963, much work toward racial equity is still needed. Following the Equity Assessment in 2018, PARD Leadership is guiding the way by putting efforts and resources into implementing the recommendations of the Equity Assessment.

Currently, PARD is working to establish training opportunities for all areas and levels of the department to ensure staff members have opportunities to learn about and understand their role as an employee in advancing racial equity throughout Austin. In addition to training, PARD is looking at processes and operations to strive toward equity-driven approaches in how we work day to day.

Establishment of PARD Equity Group

In 2020, the PARD Director established the PARD Equity Group made up of small group of individuals representing different areas of PARD who participated in the Undoing Racism Training. This group is currently reviewing the Equity Assessment Recommendations and identifying strategies and goals to systematically address the recommendations from the assessment.



EQUITY

June 25, 2020

Standing in Solidarity with our Community Against Systemic Racism

PARD acknowledges and recognizes the depth of systemic racism and racial violence the Black community and people of color face daily. The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and too many others, along with the violent acts against communities of color have been distressingly familiar—another chapter in our nation's long history of white supremacy and racial violence. PARD is an imperfect organization striving to build spaces that are equitable and inclusive. We are committed to creating and maintaining spaces where communities can learn, reflect, engage, and thrive.

As protests and demonstrations continue around the country, PARD recognizes the leadership of Black community members and supportive allies across the city, demanding systemic change. The City of Austin's vision of becoming a beacon of social equity underscores PARD's commitment to reflect upon our past and embrace the challenges of our future. Through our parks, trails, swimming pools, recreation centers, museums and cultural centers, we strive to maintain meaningful connections with our community, listen intently, and will continue to push back against racism.

30 PARD staff participants in Undoing Racism, City of Austin Equity Office

70 Students at Akins High involved in the Park Ranger Cadet Program since 2016

10 Meetings in FY20 with Youth Leadership Working Group, collaboration with CCCN, Park Rangers, park partners and youth.

96 Students from Akins and Northeast High Schools participated in SwimATX, a partnership between PARD, YMCA of Austin, and Austin Independent School District.

30 Students from Eastside Memorial and Northeast Early College High Schools participated in the Teen in Leadership Training program. The program helps participants obtain job readiness skills for PARD jobs.

54 Roving Leaders, teens who traveled to recreation centers to participate in activities and programs, a partnership with Austin Public Library and community recreation centers.

PLANNING OUR PARKS

VISION PLANS

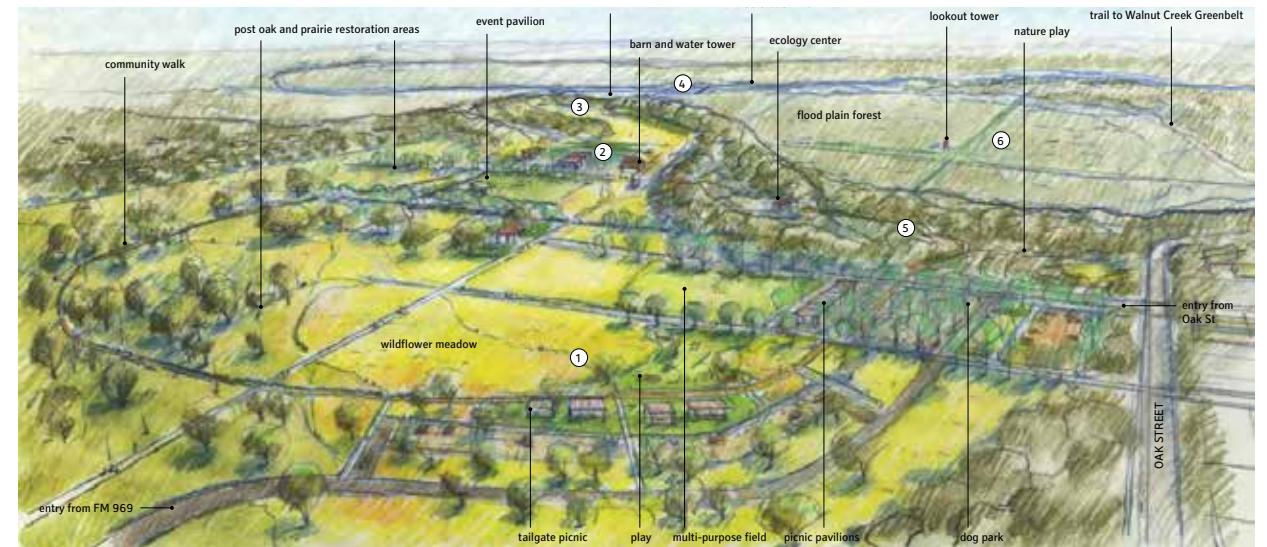
George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center

The George Washington Carver Museum has roots in Austin that reach back to the early 20th Century. In 1933, Austin's first public library was relocated to east Austin and became the City's first "colored" library. When the City built a larger library to serve the African American community, the public advocated that the old library reopen as the George Washington Carver Museum in 1980. In 2000, a feasibility study was completed for the expansion of the Carver, which yielded a 3-phase building expansion plan. As a result of this study, in 2005, the first phase was completed, which is the current Carver Museum, utilizing 1998 bond funding. The museum currently hosts core exhibits, performances, workshops, and offers family programs. The current planning effort is relying on community voices to create a plan that reflects the community's needs now and for future generations, while revisiting the previous Feasibility Study phases, two and three and creating a new vision for the Carver.



John Treviño Jr. Metropolitan Park at Morrison Ranch

The John Treviño Jr. Metro Park Vision Plan was adopted by City Council on October 15, 2020. This new 330-acre park is former ranch and farmland in far east Austin along the Colorado River. After a year-long planning process including 9 months of community engagement, the vision plan provides a framework for the park to be a primarily natural area with amenities that encourage community and family gatherings, ecological stewardship and celebration of the site's agricultural heritage. Throughout the site's natural settings, passive and recreation amenities are planned such as a comprehensive trail system, river access for fishing and boating, off-leash dog area, agricultural demonstration, open play fields and nature play for all ages.



- ① Field
- ② Farm
- ③ Home
- ④ River
- ⑤ Ravine
- ⑥ Floodplain

PLANNING OUR PARKS



Brentwood Neighborhood Park Playground Expansion

The Friends of Brentwood Park provided design services and raised substantial funding to add to Parkland Dedication (PLD) fees for the expansion of the playground at Brentwood Park. The playground expansion provides play features such as a climbing net and climbing cubes that provide recreational opportunities for older children who may have outgrown the traditional playground equipment.



North Oaks and Quail Creek Neighborhood Parks Playground Improvements

In partnership with PARD, the Austin Parks Foundation provided design and funding for two new playgrounds at North Oaks (pictured above) and Quail Creek Neighborhood Parks. Quail Creek Neighborhood Park also received a new fitness station.



Loewy Family Playground at Murchison Pool

The Northwest Austin Civic Association raised private funds and received a grant from the Neighborhood Partnering Program to realize the development of a playground at Murchison Pool. The neighborhood was lacking in a playground area that was available to non-school age children during school hours. Due to the efforts of neighbors, PARD was able to develop an innovative play area with climbing structures, swings, spinning play features, game tables and an artificial turf play surface.



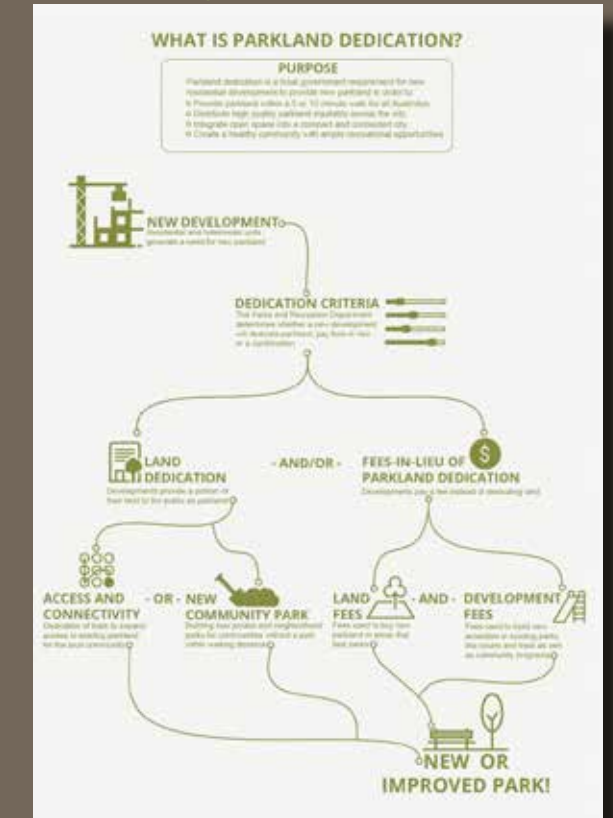
Onion Creek Metropolitan Park PHASE 1

The first phase of the Onion Creek Metro Park was completed in late 2019. The first phase is 50 acres in total and includes approximately 20 acres of irrigated open play fields, loop trails, a 50-space parking lot and trail access to the numerous nature trails already within the park. Through a partnership with the Onion Creek Metropolitan Park District, this first phase portion of the park is being privately maintained.

Parkland Dedication Storymap

The Storymap, hosted on the City website, showcases the many parks in the city that have benefited from the Parkland Dedication (PLD) Ordinance along with the PLD process. The development process requires parkland and development fees from new residential and hotel projects be set aside for the growth of parkland and recreational amenities in the city.

www.austintexas.gov/atxparkland



SD23 Objectives

Health and Environment: Providing opportunities for active recreation and land conservation.

Government That Works for All: Responsibly investing in Austin's park system to distribute high quality parkland equitably across the city.

Brownie Neighborhood Park Concept Plan Award

In partnership with PARD, Kristine Stiphany and Jason Sowell of Stiphany Sowell Architecture and Urbanism provided pro-bono planning services for the development of the Brownie Neighborhood Park Concept Plan in 2018. The Brownie Neighborhood Park plan was recently selected as a 2020 Studio Award Winner by the Texas Society of Architects.

AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
community
PARKNERSHIPS

The Community PARKnerships Program coordinates the efforts of partners and volunteers. By leveraging resources and talent, we can enhance Austin's parks and help grow a sense of community and stewardship. Through the PARKnerships program, community members and business partners can adopt their park, participate in volunteer days, propose enhancements at their local park, and donate resources. In FY20, PARD, in collaboration with over 30 nonprofit partners and community groups, leveraged over 23 million dollars in private-funds towards improvements and maintenance of parkland. By working together, we create community!



NOV 2019

Wooten Neighborhood Park KaBOOM!

PARD partnered with the Austin Parks Foundation and KaBOOM!, a non-profit organization that helps communities fund and build playgrounds, including the most recent Wooten Neighborhood Park Playground. Designed by children who live in the neighborhood, this build became a heartwarming connection between the nonprofit organizations, PARD, and the community. Over 200 volunteers from the Wooten Neighborhood Association and Michael and Susan Dell Foundation came together to help build the parkland across the span of three days. By November 6, 2019, the Wooten neighborhood had a brand-new playground!



NOV 2019



NOV 2019



Community Activated Park Project

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department is proud to offer the Community Activated Park Projects (CAPP) program for our neighborhood groups and partners. The CAPP program provides an opportunity for neighbors, non-profits, community groups and partners to raise funds and in-kind contributions to implement park improvements projects that are in alignment with PARD goals and meet community priorities. Through the CAPP program, PARD is able to streamline the proposal and implementation process for our nonprofit partners and community member's seeking to initiate improvements on parkland

Dove Springs District Park Mini-Pitch

In partnership with Soccer Assist, U.S. Soccer Foundation, and Austin FC, a previously underutilized court has been transformed into a state-of-the-art soccer play space. The new mini-pitch court provides the neighborhood a new option for healthy play. This project was initiated through the CAPP program and entirely partner-funded.



Photo Courtesy of Ryan Conway.

PARKSPACE

Through CAPP, PARD has excitedly collaborated with new partners, Austin Foundation for Architecture, American Institute of Architects Austin, and Gensler to streamline and implement a direct COVID-19 response strategy that optimizes community park space engagement. Both vibrant and practical, P A R K S P A C E is an intervention that helps visualize social distancing guidelines in Austin's parks and green spaces. The site-specific installation series uses eco-friendly turf paint to delineate spaces where people can come together to enjoy their favorite outdoor activities while maintaining a safe distance. P A R K S P A C E is designed to respond to the topography and character of each site, while highlighting native Texas wildflowers through colors and patterns.



NOV 2019

Volunteerism

In FY20 PARD leveraged thousands of volunteers to assist in the maintenance and operations of our parks and recreation system. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, volunteerism was halted for over six months in 2020, but through collaboration with national and local non-profit partners, PARD developed safety protocols and guidelines that allowed for the modified re-establishment of volunteerism.



OCT 2019



60,326
Hours Contributed



52,841
Pounds of Trash Collected



21,204
Total Volunteers



13,137
Trees Planted

Cities Connecting Children to Nature

CCCN seeks to create more equitable and abundant access to nature for children throughout Austin.

Wooldridge School Park Green School Park

The Green School Park at Wooldridge Elementary was completed in March 2020. This park was equipped with remarkable green infrastructure to improve the overall quality of experience and engagement between the space and the community. PARD hosted a variety of surveying and voting events in effort to attain insight on the features park users would like to see. Due to gracious participation of the school, community, and children, these groups served an integral role in the design of Wooldridge Green School Park. Comprehensively, the new features promote natural habitat, nature exploration, and outdoor learning.

Accomplishments

- Hosted two-day training led by Adam Bienenstock for City staff and Partners on the design, installation, and maintenance of nature play features, attended by 105 people from 39 different organizations/City divisions.
- Developed free Loose Parts Lending Kit program for community groups and nonprofits; prior to COVID-19 utilized by 957 participants at local parks.



Fall / Winter 2019-2020

DEVELOPING OUR PARKS

PARTNERSHIPS



Georgian Acres Neighborhood Park

Georgian Acres Park is a 5 acre, heavily wooded park surrounded by multifamily and single-family homes. Located in Council District 4, the area is largely Spanish speaking and park deficient. New park amenities include a decomposed granite loop trail, a large picnic shelter with tables, family-sized grills, a tot playscape, a 5-12 year old custom playscape, double bay swings, benches, bike racks, and a basketball court. In 2018, the Austin Parks Foundation awarded an ACL Music Festival Impact Grant of \$100,000 to the neighborhood to help with the construction costs. Dell Technologies Match Play, St. David's Foundation, and multiple other donors contributed as well. Overall, \$500,000 was raised to help with construction costs by Austin Parks Foundation and community partners.



Festival Beach Restroom

The Festival Beach restroom replaces an older non-accessible restroom at Edward Rendon Sr. Park at Festival Beach in Town Lake Metropolitan Park. The project is on Nash Hernandez Sr. Rd., east of I-35 and south of the Festival Beach Food Forest and Community Gardens. Jobe Corral Architects designed the new restroom. The restroom was identified for replacement in the Holly Shores Vision Plan and is one of the 15 projects The Trail Foundation announced in honor of its 15th anniversary. The project was funded through the 2012 G.O. Bond Program.



Brazos Bluff

The Brazos Bluff project sponsored and led by The Trail Foundation is located east of Congress Ave. and west of the Waller Creek Boat-house. The new IPE deck provides a resting point along the Ann and Roy Butler Trail for people to take a quick stretch, meet for lunch, pause for contemplation or more. The deck is near the Four Seasons Hotel steeply sloped parkland that often experienced significant erosion when it rained. The project addresses the stormwater that flows across the site in an aesthetically pleasing and ecologically sensitive manner and prevents further erosion of the Trail and the lake edge.



Montopolis Recreation and Community Center

In the early summer of 2020, PARD reached final completion of the new Montopolis Recreation and Community Center. A partnership with Austin Public Health, this facility provides over 33,000 square feet of new space to support recreation and health initiatives for each department. Of special significance, the facility incorporates public art installations by six local artists, all with connections to Austin's east side neighborhood. Additionally, the project includes on-site green stormwater infrastructure, a rooftop solar array, and diverted 98% of construction waste from landfills, which support the project's pursuit of a LEED Gold certification.





IN PROGRESS

Waterloo Park

Great progress was made in 2020 on the construction of Waterloo Park, which will be the first section of the Waterloo Greenway to open to the public in spring 2021. Once complete, Waterloo Park will include a family pavilion including park restrooms and a food truck area, traditional and nature-based play features, open lawn areas, two new pedestrian bridges, accessible trails, a restored stretch of Waller Creek within the park, and a 5,000-person performance venue – the Moody Amphitheater. The project is also pursuing an Austin Energy Green Building (AEGB) rating, and uses no potable water for any of the flush fixtures or irrigation.

Waterloo Greenway is an ambitious public-private partnership that will result in over \$200 million invested in a revitalized 35-acre, 1.5-mile network of parks and trails through the east side of downtown Austin along Waller Creek, a highly degraded urban stream. The ecological restoration of the creek, including bank stabilization and riparian reconstruction, is made possible by the floodplain-reducing benefits of Watershed Protection Department's (WPD) flood control tunnel, completed in 2018, and both PARD and WPD serve as sponsoring departments for the partnership. Goals of the Greenway are not only to conserve and protect our natural resources but also to connect people to nature by creating opportunities for recreation, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, and to further economic development within the Waller Creek District.

COMPLETED

Zilker Café

Zilker Café, the concession building in Zilker Metropolitan Park, was built in 1959 and is a contributing structure to the Zilker National Register Historic District. With funding from the Historic Preservation Fund and the 2012 G.O. Bond, PARD restored the building's original character and adapted it to accommodate current mechanical systems and accessibility standards. A new sidewalk was built to provide access from the train depot to the café and the bathhouse. Springfed, LLC, the vendor selected to operate the café, continues preparations to open for business in the spring of 2021.



Zilker Park Restroom

Barton Creek Trail is one of the most popular and heavily used trails in central Austin. Previously, visitors who accessed the trail at Zilker Park had no nearby restroom facilities, with the nearest being located inside the Barton Springs Pool facility. The Zilker Park Restroom project, a new 448 square foot, ADA-compliant restroom near the trailhead will serve trail and park users, as well as patrons of the Zilker Hillside Theater during production season. Monolithic stone walls, glass panels and a sloped concrete roof pay homage to the unique environment of Zilker Park. In addition to the restroom facility, environmental enhancements have been provided to improve drainage and water quality at the trailhead.



George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center

In spring of 2020 a renovation and expansion project was completed on the beloved George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center. While small in scale, the project provides a new commercial kitchen, renovated office spaces, and a mobile study area / learning center, in addition to a newly constructed building that houses a dance and fitness studio, complete with mirrored wall and barre. The new building does not touch the old, but is connected by a large roof overhang which creates a shaded patio and breezeway and offers a generous visual connection to the park and playscape. The architecture of the new building provides a contrast to the old with its inverted pitch roof and glazed tile walls. The project achieved LEED Silver Certification in recognition of the many sustainable features and for creating a resource-efficient, high-performing, healthy, and cost-effective building.

Circle C Metropolitan Park Playground

Once a small playground to serve the Circle C development, the playground at Circle C Metropolitan Park was renovated in 2020 to better serve the citywide community and meet today's accessibility standards. Special attention was given to protect the many heritage oak trees that are so beloved by visitors. The play spaces are connected by poured in place rubber to provide accessible paths to the many new play pieces. The new playground structures provide integrated shade in new locations outside of the tree's critical root zone. Other new features include a tot and group swing opportunities, a nature play area, musical pieces, five new trees and a way finding Kiosk at the playground's entry.



Alliance Children’s Garden

A 2-acre recreational environment within Michael Butler Park, the Alliance Children’s Garden represents the fulfillment of a multi-year effort to provide Austin citizens with a multi-purpose cultural park. The garden design is intended to be tailored for children while providing a variety of play and recreational experiences for people of all ages and abilities. The Alliance Children’s Garden represents the unique culture of Austin through contextual forms, imaginative play, playful elements, and strong aesthetics. The space will become a multi-generational play venue that is comfortable, inviting, imaginative, engaging, and cooperative.

The Children’s Garden is divided into four thematic rooms that reflect Austin’s unique culture and environment, including: the hill country garden, the skyline garden, the art and culture garden, and the rock and slide valley garden. Though the garden rooms feature traditional play pieces, the majority of play amenities are integrated into the landscape and are unlike any other play opportunities offered in Austin. Play features like a giant salamander, a rock-climbing wall, a musical bell piano and grand net climbing structure will keep visitors entertained and returning to the park.



Walsh Boat Landing

Walsh Boat Landing is located adjacent to the Tarrytown Neighborhood at 1600 Scenic Drive and provides water access to Lake Austin. Recent improvements to Walsh Boat Landing included repair and replacement of the docks and bulkheads, new piers and docks in addition to the planned steel sheet piling bulkhead, establishment of an accessible route to the site from Scenic Drive and an accessible walkway to the docks, creation of an accessible parking space for access to the dock, and replacement of a few existing wood retaining walls. The project was funded through a matching \$500,000 Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – Boating Access Program Grant, Parkland Dedication Funds, and 2012 and 2018 G.O. Bonds.

Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex Improvements

PARD is working with ASM Global, the current MYEC manager, on needed improvements at MYEC. The floor at the skating rink was already replaced with hardwood to accommodate skating, basketball, and other event activities. Further improvements to the skating arena and the theater will follow. The upgrades in the skating arena include LED lighting, advanced equipment controls, fog machines, strobe lights and music-driven flashing colored lights. Video wall panels and cameras will also be installed to enhance the visual experience. The MYEC theater upgrades include the replacement of the existing sound system with new audio and sound equipment, as well as new stage lights and DMX controller.



Colony Park District Park

The recently completed Colony Park District Park provides a youth baseball and multi-sport field, age-appropriate play areas, fitness equipment, pavilions, picnic tables and attractive landscaping. A pedestrian bridge and a hike and bike trail connects the neighboring communities to the park, recreation center and elementary school. In August 2020, two interpretive signs were installed to highlight environmental features in the park. The first sign is next to the rain garden that treats playground stormwater runoff and it describes what a rain garden is, why it is important, and how it functions. The second sign is next to a wildflower meadow that is seeded with plants historically found in the Blackland Prairie eco-region and can be seen in the park today.

Veterans Pocket Park

The Veterans Pocket Park project was initiated to allow for the relocation and enhancement of the exhibition of three war memorials originally located at Waterloo Park including a Vietnam War, Korean War and Hostile Action in Beirut memorials. The intent was to create a setting to express a respectful and peaceful sense of place for the memorials. The project incorporated space for future memorials or monuments as well as space for events which may include ceremonies, dedications and local, regional, and national holiday observances. The display of the monuments is ADA accessible and includes the ability to touch and read inscriptions on any part of a memorial as originally intended.



Rosewood Neighborhood Park Bathhouse

The Rosewood Neighborhood Park Pool dates from the 1950s and has been an integral part of the Austin community. The existing bathhouse was a large concrete structure located on the east side of the pool, that was accessed via a set of steps and housed a large mechanical room for the pool equipment. The goal of the new bathhouse was to create an ADA accessible facility for the pool and the park. The new bathhouse includes restrooms with showers and a family restroom. Additional enhancements include ADA compliant sidewalks, ramps, updated utilities, landscaping and two accessible parking spaces. An Art in Public Places (AIPP) art component was also incorporated into this project. Funding was provided from the 2012 G.O. Bond and Parkland Dedication fees.



Tanglewood Neighborhood Park

Tanglewood Neighborhood Park was constructed as part of a Municipal Utility District (MUD) back in the 1990s. The City annexed the park and PARD now has responsibility for the park and its amenities. The park is used by nearby residents for its wooded trails, Tai Chi, playscape, picnics, basketball, and volleyball. In 2019, funded by Parkland Dedication fees and 2012 and 2018 G.O. Bonds, the park went through a transformation. New playground equipment was installed, a new pavilion was erected, the basketball court was resurfaced, the old pavilion slab was refurbished, and ADA compliant sidewalks were installed along with other site amenity improvements. Construction was completed in May 2020 and the park is open for neighborhood residents to enjoy.



Govalle Neighborhood Pool

Originally constructed in the 1950's during the era of segregation, Govalle Pool consisted of a square shaped pool with limited deck space and shallow water. The new facility exemplifies the Neighborhood Pool classification as established in the Aquatic Master Plan. The project's funding sources were a one-time allocation from Council, and 2006 and 2012 G.O. Bonds. The new Govalle Pool facility consists of a recreation / lap pool and a separate activity pool (tot pool) with a zero-depth entry with playful water features, ample deck space, large shade structures, new restrooms and family rooms centered around an iconic existing oak tree. The new facility also provides year-round restroom access to the existing park.



This past year has seen the completion of several new and newly improved parks and facilities that provide fully ADA compliant recreational opportunities, including the following:

- Alliance Children's Garden
- Bull Creek District Park
- Colony Park District Park
- Eilers Neighborhood Park
- George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center
- Georgian Acres Neighborhood Park
- Little Stacy Neighborhood Park
- Montopolis Recreation + Community Center
- Ricky Guerrero Pocket Park
- Rosewood Neighborhood Park Bathhouse
- Tanglewood Neighborhood Park
- Veterans Pocket Park
- Westenfield Neighborhood Park Tennis Courts
- Zilker Cafe
- Zilker Park Restrooms

ADA Transition Plan Implementation

In 2020, PARD hired an ADA Coordinator to assist in the implementation of the ADA Transition Plan. Progress is made when non-accessible items noted in the ADA Transition Plan are corrected to meet current accessibility standards. PARD's short-term goal is to reach 100% program accessibility, which means that every PARD program is offered at an ADA accessible location.



Veterans Pocket Park



Zilker Café



Zilker Park Restroom



Photo courtesy of Austin History Center.

Fannie Davis Gazebo

National Register of Historic Places

The Fannie Davis Gazebo at Vic Mathias Shores at Town Lake Metro Park was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Noted for its historical and architectural significance, the Fannie Davis Gazebo joins other properties under PARD stewardship with National Register status. The 1969 Town Lake Gazebo was the first public structure built in the effort to beautify the south shore of Town Lake (now Lady Bird Lake), which was created after the construction of Longhorn Dam on the Colorado River in 1960. The Austin Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), established in the 1950s for women working in the construction industry, spearheaded and raised funds for the project. Thirty-five visionary women in Austin saw the possibility of putting something on the shores for all to enjoy and dedicate it to the construction industry. Inspired by Lady Bird Johnson, a national leader in environmental beautification and later the honorary co-chair of the Town Lake Beautification Committee, the Austin chapter began planning and raising money for the structure in 1965. Almost 100 contractors and suppliers enthusiastically supported the gazebo project with donations of materials and labor. The gazebo was dedicated in June 1970, and in 1984, the structure was named for Fannie Davis, a founding member of the Austin chapter of NAWIC. PARD developed and installed an interpretive sign at the Fannie Davis.

Eastwoods Neighborhood Park

Lonestar Legacy Park

Eastwoods Neighborhood Park was one of four Texas parks honored with designation as a Lone Star Legacy Park by the Texas Recreation and Parks Society in a ceremony at the association's annual institute in Galveston on February 27, 2020.

A Lone Star Legacy Park is a park that holds special prominence in the local community and the state of Texas. To qualify for consideration, the park must have endured the test of time and become iconic to those who have visited, played and rested on its grounds. Nominated parks must be a minimum of 50 years old and meet criteria related to historic, architectural and natural significance.

In 1929, the City of Austin purchased land near the University of Texas for use as a public park. The area is associated with Wheeler's Grove, which is one of the earliest known sites in Austin where African Americans celebrated Juneteenth. Celebrated annually, Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, which is the day that news of the Emancipation Proclamation reached Texas. Wheeler's Grove was the site of Juneteenth gatherings for African Americans until celebrations began at Emancipation Park, a privately-owned park in East Austin, around 1905.

Eastwoods Neighborhood Park was designed by Texas landscape architect, Jac Gubbels, in collaboration with Austin architect Hugo Kuehne and opened to the public in 1930. Eastwoods Park was the original home of the annual Austin festival, Eeyore's Birthday Party, which began in 1964, but outgrew the park and moved to Pease Park in 1974.



Wheeler's Grove
Photo courtesy of Austin History Center.

Rosewood Neighborhood Park

Lonestar Legacy Award Texas Historical Marker

In light of the public health crisis, PARD adapted several events to an online format. In honor of Juneteenth, PARD launched its first virtual historical marker dedication ceremony for Rosewood Neighborhood Park, which received an official Texas Historical Marker and Lone Star Legacy award. The video has been accessed more than 2,200 times by members of the public.

Oakwood Cemetery Annex

Historical Marker in Honor of the Gant Family

PARD installed a historical marker in honor of the Gant Family at Oakwood Cemetery Annex. The Gant Family singers recorded about 40 songs for the American ethnomusicologist Alan Lomax in the 1930s. The marker is at the site of the oldest son Nephi, who was murdered after a bar fight and buried in 1936. The installation of interpretive historical markers is one of many ways PARD promotes Austin's municipal cemeteries to tourists.

WE CREATE COMMUNITY

All Together Here

On October 9-10, 2020, PARD hosted a free online symposium, All Together Here, to provide the public with opportunities to learn about the archaeological research taking place at Oakwood Cemetery. This two-day symposium featured 37 nationally renowned archaeologists, anthropologists, historians, community members, and City staff in an online forum. More than 300 people registered, from 22 states and three countries with the furthest attendee from Lagos, Nigeria.



Michael Butler Park

Interpretive Sign Project

PARD worked with the Butler Family to develop an interpretive signage project at Michael Butler Park. The project included new entry signage constructed of Butler brick, historical markers as well as interpretive signage for Willie Wells, Doug Sahn and Liz Carpenter. The project was completed in early 2020.



Photo courtesy of Austin History Center.

Shipe Shelter House

Preservation Austin Merit Award Winner

The Shipe Shelter House was constructed in 1930 in the classic dog trot form and is among the first park buildings to be constructed shortly after the establishment of the department. The restoration project was a collaboration between the Austin Parks and Recreation Department, Friends of Shipe Park and Austin Parks Foundation. The project included a new cedar shake roof, new chinking and daubing and repairs to the log walls. The project received a preservation merit award from Preservation Austin in fall 2020.



O. Henry Museum

Historic Preservation

In the heat of summer, a few months into the pandemic, construction began on the historic preservation of the O. Henry Museum in Brush Square. Ongoing work includes building envelope repairs, mechanical, electrical and fire suppression upgrades, and landscaping and accessibility improvements. A new stone patio at the back of the building will better connect the house to improvements planned for Brush Square. Built in 1896, the house was the home of William Sydney Porter, famous for his short stories written under the pseudonym O. Henry.

IMPROVEMENTS



Zilker Clubhouse

Restoration

A restoration of Zilker Clubhouse is in the design phase for the 1934 building that sits at the summit of Zilker Preserve, overlooking Ladybird Lake and the ever-changing Austin skyline. As a contributing structure to Zilker Park's National Register Historic District, the building was constructed originally for the Boy Scouts under the Civil Works Administration but has been owned by the city and publicly rented for special events since the late 1930s. The project's goal is to preserve the building's historic character, provide code and accessibility updates and enhance the outdoor spaces to better serve the special events held here. The design team shared the schematic designs with the community in a virtual open house forum in fall of 2020.



Fiesta Gardens

Complex Rehabilitation

Design is underway for the rehabilitation of historic Fiesta Gardens, a popular special events rental space for community events and private celebrations. The Fiesta Gardens Complex Rehabilitation project's primary objective is to thoughtfully restore the complex's unique and authentic character while also addressing ADA accessibility and environmental sustainability – all guided by the recommendations approved in the Holly Shores / Edward Rendon Sr. Park at Festival Beach Vision Plan. Once completed, Fiesta Gardens will continue to provide a special events rental venue for community events and family celebrations on the shores of Lady Bird Lake.

CARING FOR OUR PARKS

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GROUNDS SERVICES

Park maintenance crews were on the front lines throughout the pandemic. Parks remained open for people to find respite, enjoy the open space, as well as exercise, and walk the trails.

Maintenance crews mowed the lawn, maintained the trails, picked up trash, cleaned restrooms, removed graffiti, and maintained benches and parking areas.

The team also implemented a registration system at three parks to regulate the number of visitors. Emma Long, Walter E. Long and Commons Ford Metropolitan Parks all required reservations Thursdays through Sundays from spring through fall.



FACILITIES

Crews maintained and upgraded PARD facilities including:

- Lighting replacement/upgrades (LED lighting) on most courts at Recreation Centers
- HVAC replacements at Recreation Centers and PARD Main
- Repairs at Austin Rowing Club
- Pea gravel replacement with EWF in almost all remaining playgrounds, bringing them to compliance
- Graffiti removal at Barton Springs Pool and as needed at other PARD facilities

Crews also assisted in the delivery of capital improvement projects at Colony Park District Park, Brentwood Neighborhood Park, and others.

FIELD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS:

Quail Creek Neighborhood Park

The trail required a new drainage system, re-alignment, and footing to support limestone block. The trail was widened by 6' and concrete was poured to support footing for block. Compromised bank line was re-dressed and fill material added and raised to desired grade.



Colony Park District Park

The park received a new trail with tie-ends at various points throughout park. New drain systems and wedging applications were installed to support positive sheet-flow to aid and protect against damages from weather elements.



Brentwood Neighborhood Park

The park recently received infrastructure improvements. The sidewalks and portion of the parking lot were demolished and reconstructed to meet ADA and other safety requirements.



SIGN SHOP

COVID-19 Signage

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March, the sign shop designed, fabricated, and installed over 1,600 coroplast signs in Spanish and English to communicate amenity and facility closures and instructions to encourage safe use, social distancing, masks and frequent hand washing.

The sign shop also created 120 labels for sneeze screens and social distancing floor decals for the facilities. Staff assisted in assembly and scheduled some after hours to meet deadlines.

Sign Replacements

The team replaced the building sign at George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center after the renaming, and created new signs for Colony Park, Walsh Boat Landing, Eilers Neighborhood Park, and all other recently completed parks and facilities.



SUSTAINABILITY

Distinguishing the third year of PARD's sustainability program was the continued growth and ongoing implementation of previously-initiated projects.

FY20 was also notable for actively applying an equity lens to sustainability decisions, along with environmental and fiscal considerations.

Recycling in Parks

PARD is currently in the first of three phases of installing landfill and recycling receptacles as paired units on concrete pads, now focusing on all metropolitan parks, athletics sites, aquatics sites, golf facilities, and recently completed capital improvement park projects.

The receptacles are clearly labeled in English and Spanish to comply with the city's Universal Recycling Ordinance guidelines and progress towards the city's Zero Waste goals. The remaining two phases of the Recycling Implementation Plan will focus on district and neighborhood parks.



Energy Audits

State-funded preliminary energy audits for the 17 largest PARD facilities were completed. The audits were used to determine HVAC and other energy-related improvements that will be implemented in FY21.



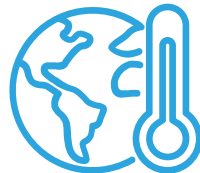
Solar-powered Security Lights

Based upon locations recommended by residents and prioritized against equity and other factors, 28 solar-powered security lights were installed at 14 PARD sites.



Project Environmental Certification

PARD's sustainability team began conducting sustainability-oriented reviews for all PARD capital improvement projects early in the design phase. The new process will facilitate decision making in early design and ensure compliance and achievement of environmental certifications including LEED, SITES and Austin Energy Green Building.



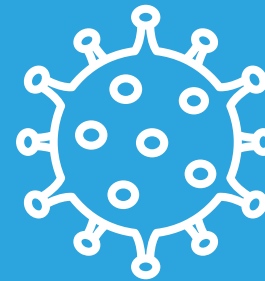
Climate Change Mitigation and Equity

As part of a broad coalition of community members and city staff, PARD staff participated in the nine-month long process of creating the 2020 Climate Equity Plan. Recognizing the existential threat of climate change and its disproportionate impact on communities of color, the plan's goal is to equitably reach net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, with 75 strategies to be achieved by 2025.

HOMELESSNESS

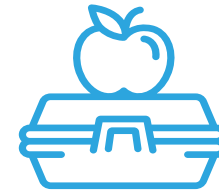
Public Space Management

During COVID-19 the City of Austin is following Centers for Disease Control guidelines to allow people who are living unsheltered, or in encampments, to remain where they are at this time, to minimize community spread of the disease and maximize access to services. Individuals who are violating applicable laws that lead to the erosion of public health and safety or are in unsafe areas may be asked to relocate. When individuals are asked to relocate, the City will make efforts to ensure that they are offered and connected to appropriate services.



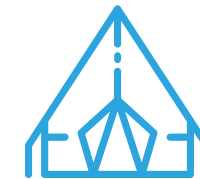
Basic Hygiene Sites

With businesses closing down and people staying distant or home, it is harder than ever for people experiencing homelessness to meet their needs in Austin. The City and nonprofit partners are working together to help provide everyone basic hygiene resources such as handwashing stations, restrooms and showers to stay well and safe during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Eating Apart Together Initiative

COVID-19 has changed how everyone in Austin gets food. With more restaurants closing and fewer people handing out donations, finding reliable sources of food is more important than ever. The City of Austin and partners across the community created the Eating Apart Together (EAT) Initiative to get food to people experiencing homelessness through the COVID-19 response. It is a collective effort that has delivered over 500,000 meals to people experiencing homelessness throughout the City.



Encampment Engagement and Management Strategy Group

PARD created a think tank of City staff from multiple departments facing challenges associated with homelessness. The group created and recommended, meaningful solutions to issues surrounding homelessness for both City departments and those experiencing homelessness.



People Experiencing Homelessness on Parkland

Individuals experiencing homelessness camp and store their belongings on parkland. PARD has been working to develop compassionate solutions that first connect these individuals with social service providers to help them transition out of homelessness and minimize camp site impacts to the environment.

MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL CENTERS



Fall 2019

Elisabet Ney Museum \$150k Preservation Funding Recipient

The Elisabet Ney Museum was the recipient of \$150K in funding from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 'Partners in Preservation' program. "This gift is not only a windfall for preservation efforts for the site that represents the origin of Austin's independent creative culture, it was an endorsement of our vision that the Ney can continue to be a platform for radical inclusion, equity, and art in its many forms," said Curator/Manager, Oliver Franklin. Created in 2006, Partners in Preservation is a community-based partnership between the National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Express to engage the public in preserving historic places. In total, the Ney competed against 19 other historic sites in a month-long campaign that included special events and public voting to win a share of the \$2 million in preservation funding.



George Washington Carver Museum & Cultural Center Juneteenth 2020: Stay Black and Live

Juneteenth 2020: Stay Black and Live, a collaboration with several Black organizations in Austin's historic East side including Six Square, Greater East Austin Youth Association, and Jump on It, was an event that emphasized not only the timeless themes of freedom and perseverance, but also recognized the unprecedented times we're currently living through. "It's a time to educate and it's a time to really figure out what is the real work of an organization and a museum and also a cultural center," said Carre Adams, Manager of the Carver. The live-stream event, which included a variety of art, music, speaker, and poetry has currently been viewed by 18,000 people, surpassing all previous attendance of Juneteenth events in a single year.



ESB-MACC's Desde La Sala

Staff of the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center created the bilingual Desde La Sala (From the Living Room) musical program in direct response to the global pandemic and subsequent sequestration. Desde La Sala, a bimonthly music series, featured video submissions by local, national and international dancers and musicians and provided a taste of 24 different types of Latino music representing 10 different cultures. It also provided a stipend for 40 different financially challenged musical groups during the global recession when musical venues were shuttered. Total lifetime video views were 124,454! "Great virtual event. Thank you MACC and all the artists!"



Stay Creative! Arts and Culture Summer Discovery Online Program

Stay Creative! Arts and Culture Summer Discovery online program was an exciting first for PARD. This online exploration of arts, culture, and nature for children 5 to 12 years of age was the first PARD summer activity conducted entirely online. Occurring four weeks between July 6 and July 30, 2020, 649 children engaged in weekly programmed activities, eight hours per day, exploring new and exciting educational themes. Each week, programmed activities were provided by professional instructors, and children were guided through the development of the activity by instructional aides in their age specific "Zoom Rooms" delivering entertaining and uplifting recreational programming for children based on the arts and cultural content provided by the Dougherty Arts Center, the Asian American Resource Center, the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center and George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center and the Austin Nature and Science Center.

"I wasn't sure who to share this with, but I wanted to take a minute and thank you and the entire staff for an amazing experience with Stay Creative camp... The lessons and materials were so well planned and organized. Our girls learned so many interesting and important concepts. We have missed human interaction while in isolation and this camp was exactly what we needed to inspire and stay creative! Thank you for this incredible experience."



\$7.3M
Operating Budget



382,709
Total Attendance of
On-site and Online
Programming

12% Drop-in Visitors
28% Special Event Attendees



3105
Total Number of
Events and Programs

1,403 Canceled due to COVID-19



1,077,035
Total Social Media
Interactions



8,149
Total Number of Artists
In Service (Free or Paid)
by Museums and Cultural Centers



54.5
Full Time Staff



98%
Number of participants who
increased their knowledge
and understanding of culture,
history, and art

EVENTS IN OUR PARKS

The COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected the ability to gather, live events and concessions in the park system throughout 2020.

470

Facility / Picnic
Site Bookings

28,600

Park Users

\$2,737

Ticket Fees



194

Filming Permits
in Days

6,484

Film Workers
Crew, Staff & Talent

\$4,500

Filming Donations

5

Special Ceremonies

September '19 through
March '20.

Openings, Ribbon Cuttings,
or Ground Breakings

- Little Stacy Neighborhood Park
- Dove Springs Futsal Court
- Colony Park District Park
- Loewy Family Playground
at Murchison Pool Park
- Festival Beach Restroom

Commercial Use Permits

5

Parks Utilized by Permits

25

Commercial User Groups

14,018

Fitness
Participants



Seasonal Concessions



35

Temporary
Concessions
6 month and single day

18

Parks Utilized

Tour Group Pilot



3,210

Park Tour
Participants

Non-motorized tour group
pilot project conducted in
designated areas.



KEEP AUSTIN SWIMMING



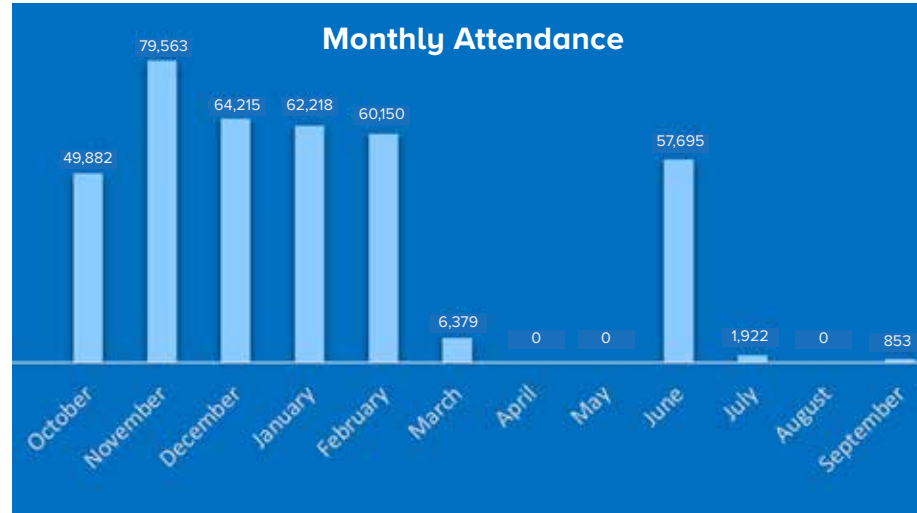
COVID-19 Response

Because of COVID-19 the Aquatics Division was unable to expand its workforce to 800 temporary staff and 40 operational facilities. Instead, 200 year-round lifeguard staff continued to train, operate facilities, and support other city COVID-19 response initiatives. Aquatics opened nine public pools in early June, including Deep Eddy and Barton Springs but closed them all by the end of June due to an increase in COVID-19 cases. On September 25, 2020 Aquatics resumed operations of its five year-round facilities Barton Springs, Bartholomew, Deep Eddy, Springwoods, and Stacy pools.

Maintenance Projects

Several maintenance projects were completed at facilities that were opened or preparing to open. Work included the installation of new doors, main drain valves, a water slide, circulation filter, tension cover, pool plaster, ultraviolet light disinfection systems, and lifeguard stands.

All pools and splash pads were put into service prior to the 2020 season and, though not opened due to COVID-19, no major issues or concerns were identified.



StarGuard Training

In October of 2019, the Aquatics Division began its transition to new lifeguard and water safety partners, StarGuard Elite and Starfish Aquatics Institute. The Aquatics Division certified 56 Lifeguard Instructors and Instructor Trainers through two Instructor Development Courses with help from our training partner. These Lifeguard Instructors then helped 147 PARD lifeguards crossover to the StarGuard curriculum.

Closures due to COVID-19, as well as the department-wide hiring freeze caused many scheduled classes to be canceled. StarGuard Elite and Starfish Aquatics Institute kept partners connected with CDC guidelines as well as water safety information from their medical director. In addition, StarGuard Elite offered blended options which helped the Aquatics Division continue to engage returning lifeguards with a recertification course.

Out of 232 registrants, 182 returning lifeguards completed the blended learning renewal path. This course included 6 hours of self-directed online training, followed by two virtual 3-hour sessions with a live instructor. This prepared the recertification candidates for a 4-hour water session to test out on practical skills.

This blended approach helped maintain lifeguard certifications. Per the StarGuard license and Texas State code, lifeguards must attend continuing education one hour per week. The division quickly became efficient at hosting virtual trainings averaging over 100 participants weekly. Virtual trainings were new to the industry and in order to help colleagues, PARD staff presented on this subject at the National Recreation and Parks Association webinar.



NEW POOLS

Govalle Neighborhood Pool AND Shipe Neighborhood Pool

Govalle Neighborhood Pool and Shipe Neighborhood Pool opened to the public on June 1, 2020.

Amenities include restrooms and family rooms, a lap-recreation pool, and a zero-entry activity pool, as well as abundant shade from the newly installed shade structures.

Govalle Neighborhood Park surrounds the new pool and is also the location of the Southern Walnut Creek Trail.

The pool offers a great location to jump in and cool off after a ride or run on the trail. Shipe Neighborhood

Pool is located in the historic Hyde Park area with easy access from the University of Texas and surrounding neighborhoods.



SHIPE



GOVALLE



COVID-19 Response

Due to Covid 19, the City of Austin golf courses were closed from March 16 thru April 14 and again from July 3 thru August 14 for a total of 71 Days. In addition to the course closures, all tournaments, meetings and events scheduled from March through September 2020 were canceled. The closure of the courses led to a decrease in rounds played. Upon reopening, the courses were quickly populated as golf was deemed a safe, socially distanced activity. Hancock Golf Course and the Joe Balander short course both saw an increase in rounds played over the previous year.

Modified operations were put in place to allow patrons to golf safely on the courses including the removal of water jugs on the course, sand rakes, flagsticks, limits on cart rentals, player group size, and cart cleaning protocols. In addition, pro shop counters were fitted with plexi-glass sneeze guards and PPE supplies were distributed to staff. Masks were required in the pro shop and around the clubhouse areas. As COVID-19 protocols evolved operations were modified to reflect those changes.

Prior to the cancellation of events, nearly 270 golf tournaments were scheduled on the Golf ATX courses ranging from golf tournaments, golf leagues, charity events, middle and high school matches, alumni events, and company outings.

The decision was made to cancel for the first time in its 40 plus year history, the Austin Junior Golf Camp. Each registrant was issued a full refund of their camp tuition. Other junior events which were canceled included the Division 1A, 2A, 3A UIL State Championship, Southern Texas PGAs junior tournaments, and U.S. Kids Golf tournaments.

Prior to the cancellation of the golf clinics in March, the Golf Division launched a new Meet Up group page to reach potential new golfers and tournament players.



6 Public Golf Courses
Five 18-hole courses, one 9 hole course, and one short course



213,305 Golf Rounds Played
Includes recreational and competitive rounds and players of all ages.



MARKETING

The Golf ATX website was successfully upgraded to a new software platform and easy to navigate design. The Golf Division continued to build its social media followers through consistency and engagement with its followers. The Golf ATX social media pages were utilized to provide COVID-19 related operation updates for our patrons and our FaceBook page's popular 'Name this Hole' contest continued throughout the shutdown to provide levity. The Division ran a highly successful holiday radio campaign gift offer on several local radio stations and renewed its agreement with Texas Golf Insider featuring print and digital ads and one live interview on the TGI radio show. A new, updated membership brochure was created to provide patrons with the various Golf ATX membership options.



MAINTENANCE

The Golf Division's construction project team completed numerous improvement projects during the closure including renovations to the Hancock golf course, putting green, and #14 tee renovation at Morris Williams, Lions kitchen clubhouse renovation, a driving range renovation at Grey Rock, replaced #1 cart path at Roy Kizer and the completion of the Matthew Brown House improvements.



Dallas Morning News Annual
TOP RANKED GOLF COURSES

TOP 50 PUBLIC GOLF COURSES
46 Grey Rock Golf Course

TOP 25 ECONOMY GOLF COURSES

RANK	COURSE
7	Jimmy Clay Golf Course
11	Roy Kizer Golf Course
13	Morris Williams Golf Course

CENTRALIZED PROGRAMS

Creating community through athletic, outreach, therapeutic, and COVID-19 response programs.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Food Access

In partnership with Brighter Bites, Central Texas Food Bank and the Community Recreation Division, PARD staff distributed healthy family meal produce boxes and nutritious youth meals to families in need at recreation centers throughout Austin.

19,344
Produce Boxes

13,622
Youth Meals



Program Operations

The PARD Centralized Programs Division played a lead role in updating youth development, therapeutic and athletic program operational procedures and staff trainings to ensure PARD operated all programs and services in alignment with federal, state and local health authority guidelines.

375
Contracted
Service Providers
trained on new
guidelines

57
Full Time Staff

60K
Work Hours

21K
Hand Sanitizer
Distributed

380
Shower Hours
Austin Recreation Center
operated shower hours
for people experiencing
homelessness.

3,358
People
Experiencing
Homelessness
received shower services
at Austin Recreation Center.

Support Services

Temporary staff with the Centralized Programs Division stepped out of their regular job duties to assist the City of Austin in supporting roles that monitor parks, parking lot management, facility maintenance, contact tracing and hygiene supply distribution and opportunities (shower hours).



WE CREATE COMMUNITY



Fall / Winter 2019-2020

160
Participants
7th-12th graders

50+
Online
Tutorials
Videos accessible
for online learning

Totally Cool, Totally Art (TCTA)

TCTA has been cultivating the creativity of teens since 1996. The 25th program season included Fresh Threads, a new class that exposes and develops the artistic development of teens through fashion design. Additional sessions offered included, Short Film, and Sculpture and Painting.

When COVID-19 safety protocols led to the suspension of in-person programs operations, TCTA staff quickly shifted to virtual programming and online art project tutorials. The online format kept teens engaged remotely and included a four-week interactive Summer Theater Camp.

Civic Futures Award

The Civic Futures Summit celebrates and recognizes the future of state and local governments across Central Texas. In October 2019, the PARD Inclusion Unit was the recipient of the Community Inclusion and Engagement award in recognition of its work to make PARD an inclusive department welcoming to all citizens of Austin.



OCT 2019



OCT 2019

ATHLETICS

Sports Leagues, Instructions, Programs, and Reservations

The Athletics Programs Office provides youth and adult sport leagues, recreational instructional programs and athletic facility reservations that increases quality of life and promotes an active lifestyle.

Virtual Athletics Programs

March 2020 (COVID-19 Operations) marked the cancellation of internal and external athletic leagues, instruction programs and facility reservations. Although typical programs were hindered, Athletic staff shifted to online programs and informational videos. In partnership with Mission Control GG, an E-Sports League was created as part of the online programming. The group gained positive feedback and publicity through Austin Spectrum News.



4,525
Adult Sports
Total Participants



8,004
Youth Sports
Total Participants



5K
Hours
Athletic Facility
Reservations



750
Athletic
Community
Engagement



55
E-Sports League
Participants



Fall / Winter 2019-2020



Fall / Winter 2019-2020



THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS

Adaptive Programs

In early March the PARD Inclusion Unit hosted a recreational wheelchair basketball tournament at the Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center in partnership with the Lonestar Paralysis Foundation. Multiple teams from Lonestar, APD and PARD wowed the crowd with their skills and enthusiasm for the sport, making for a fun and exciting event. The Inclusion Unit looks forward to hosting more adaptive sport exhibitions in the future.



283
Adult Therapeutic
Participants

New Programming

Through efforts of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, PARD received additional funding to expand adaptive and inclusive services across the department, including facility and equipment improvements to create more accessible environments. Efforts to expand adult therapeutic programs with on-site programs began in the fall at Dottie Jordan Recreation Center in connection with McBeth (Therapeutic) Recreation Center. Program offerings included life skills development, fitness, wellness, STEM, sports and arts and crafts classes. (Programs shifted virtually under COVID-19 operations)



Fall / Winter 2019-2020

COMMUNITY RECREATION

Creative COVID-19 Programs

The Gus Garcia Recreation Center hosted two separate events as a safe way to interact with senior citizens. Parking Lot Bingo provided safe entertainment for over 50 senior citizens. Seniors played from the safety of their cars and numbers were called out from a loud speaker as well as displayed by staff holding signs. Bingo winners honked their horns and prizes were placed in the trunks of their vehicles.



In another effort to lift spirits of the senior program participants, staff hosted a drive-thru birthday celebration. The event allowed seniors, who were not able to celebrate their birthdays with family or friends, the opportunity to drive-thru, honk their horns and receive a small birthday gift bag.



George Morales Dove Springs Recreation center in partnership with Austin Public Health held a PPE giveaway to their community. The 2 hour drive-thru event provided over 1,000 PPE packets to the Dove Springs Community members.

Camp for Children of City of Austin Employees Affected by Covid-19

Multiple recreation centers provided a safe, fun, and enriching environment for children of COA employees starting March 2020. This free camp provided childcare for COA essential employees and was greatly appreciated by the hard-working City employees. Once school started, focus shifted to provide assistance with distance learning for participants called ReCreation of Learning.



'Let Us Come to You' Series

Many recreation centers participated in the 'Let Us Come to You' series where staff created and dropped off activity packets for participants. Packet activities included arts and crafts, fitness challenges, obstacle course and even life-size chalk games.



20

Community Recreation

17 Community Centers
3 Senior Activity Centers
1 Senior Transportation Unit

Community recreation centers provide a strong connection to Austin neighborhoods, offering a wide array of programming for all ages, including camps, sports, health and wellness, art, music, and more.

Recreation centers also host community events, community resource fairs, BBQ contests, movies in the park, and even an acoustical café featuring local and national musicians. Recreation and senior centers provide a comprehensive menu of activities and events for all ages and abilities to come together, connect with each other, and create community.



Supplemental Food Program

To assist families during the pandemic the Gustavo “Gus” L. Garcia Recreation Center, Givens Recreation Center, and Turner Roberts Recreation Center partnered with Brighter Bites and DiMare Fresh to provide boxes of produce to families living in the community. Each box contained approximately 20 pounds of fresh produce. Sites distributed a combined total of 348,012 pounds of food and 19,334 boxes of fresh produce to the community to support families during difficult times.



Renaming of Metz Recreation Center

Rodolfo “Rudy” Mendez, longtime PARD staff member and pillar of the East Austin community, passed away in 2019. Rudy was a formally trained dancer and choreographer who toured with several national ballet companies around the world. Rudy was passionate about making the performing arts accessible to all youth and was driven to give back to his community. He developed “Dare to Dance,” a city-wide program which was nationally recognized, founded the Ballet East Dance Company and created the Folkloric Dance and Mentoring Program. Metz Recreation Center was renamed the Rodolfo “Rudy” Mendez Recreation Center in his honor on July 29, 2020.

50 PLUS SERVICES UNIT

Outreach

Recreation Center and 50 Plus Services staff offered a variety of virtual programming such as exercise videos in English and Spanish, craft tutorials, cooking projects and virtual computer training. In August, senior centers offered the first annual Stay Engaged, Virtual Marathon. The marathon had over 100 registered participants ranging in age from 4 to 93 that participated in an 8 week marathon complete with medals at the end.

Lamar Senior Activity Center (LSAC), Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center and South Austin Senior Activity Center (SASAC) also worked to keep their 50 Plus Services participants engaged. Staff created lists of participants who were living alone, had medical challenges, could benefit from some extra social interaction etc, and offered weekly well-check phone calls. Staff also mailed out weekly handwritten notes and birthday cards as well as biweekly newsletters that included articles, activities and information to help participants stay connected and safe.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, staff were challenged to learn new ways of creating connections with participants. The Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center created two professional video studios and produced virtual programming for 50 Plus Services participants. These studios were used by all three activity centers and enabled staff to produce over 75 videos on YouTube with thousands of views by the public. Programs included exercise, arts, cooking, gardening and education. Staff enjoyed learning how to use a green background and honed their creative video editing skills.



NATURAL RESOURCES



Forestry Services

The Urban Forestry program made tremendous strides toward developing a robust Plant Health Care (PHC) program, with the goal of expanding oak wilt management capability and pursuing soil treatments to improve the health of trees on parkland. Four new staff members became licensed TDA Applicators, and completed oak wilt injections on trees at Reed Neighborhood Park, Commons Ford Ranch Metropolitan Park, and Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park. PARD Forestry also funded oak wilt treatments for trees at Grey Rock Golf Course. Combined, over 100 trees received treatment this year. Newly acquired equipment will allow Forestry to begin performing deep-root fertilizations on selected trees beginning in FY21. These investments in staff training and equipment will greatly expand the options for addressing tree health issues on parkland and help to ensure the longevity of these treasured public assets.

Inventory

Social distancing requirements provided an unexpected opportunity for Forestry staff to focus on tasks that can be performed alone, rather than in crew configurations. Tree maintenance staff were able to gather tree inventory data for 16 parks and the entire Zilker complex, which includes Zilker Botanical Gardens, Barton Springs Pool, the Great Lawn, the Disc Golf Course, Zilker Hillside Theater, the playground area, and parking lots. They also completed structural pruning on young trees at 14 parks with trees that were planted within the last several years. This type of pruning typically includes choosing a strong central leader, establishing branch spacing appropriate to the species, and removing crossing or rubbing branches. This helps to ensure that young trees develop the strong branch structure that is essential for longevity and resilience.

Tree Funding

In 2020, PARD Forestry was awarded over \$85,000 in Urban Forest Funding from the Development Services Community Tree Division. These funds are raised through fees incurred by development-related impacts to trees and are intended to support tree planting, preservation, and education efforts on public lands. With these funds, PARD Forestry has executed a large-scale tree planting and irrigation installation along the Southern Walnut Creek Trail adjacent to the Austin Tennis Center. This planting will provide much-needed shade and enhance connection to nature for trail users on this open stretch of paved trail. In FY21, Forestry plans to extend this planting northward to Daffan Lane with the installation of an additional 200 shade trees.



2,414
Acres of
Preserves



5,122
Trees Pruned



742
Tons of Wood
Recycled



92%
Rate of
Survival of
Planted Trees

LAND MANAGEMENT

This year PARD established the Land Management Program to help prepare our natural areas for the coming decades by addressing wildfire risk, loss of biodiversity, and climate change. The program also coordinates PARD's response to homelessness.

This past year, the program created a plan and scope of work that will guide the restoration and management of the Austin Nature Preserves System and other large natural areas.

Preserves currently have active research permits issued to research teams led by individuals at Huston-Tillotson University, Texas A&M, and Texas State.



201
Acres Seeded
for improved
pollinator habitat



120 Acres
Prescribed burn at
Decker Prairie Preserve



18 Events
400 Participants
2,250 Hours



60 Hours
Service learning for Park Ranger
Cadets in preserves focused
on land management.



2,859
Habitats
Certified NWF
backyard habitats
in Austin

Project Prairie Bird
Park Rangers operated Project Prairie Bird, a citizen-science program designed to teach birding and avian monitoring. Park Rangers also operated the Introduction to Birding program at the Louis René Barrera Indiangrass Wildlife Sanctuary.





Fall 2019



Park Ranger Programs

Park Ranger programs focus on the conservation of habitat, as well as Responsible Recreation and Leave No Trace. The focus of every Ranger-led activity is on conserving Austin's natural spaces and recreating responsibly.

In March 2020, Park Rangers suspended in-person programming to focus on PARD-specific COVID needs such as park closures, information about social distancing, and even trail directional changes. Instead of in-person programming Rangers offered a number of online programs to provide enrichment to kids, and families in a different format.



303
Ranger-led
Programs



10,159
Participants



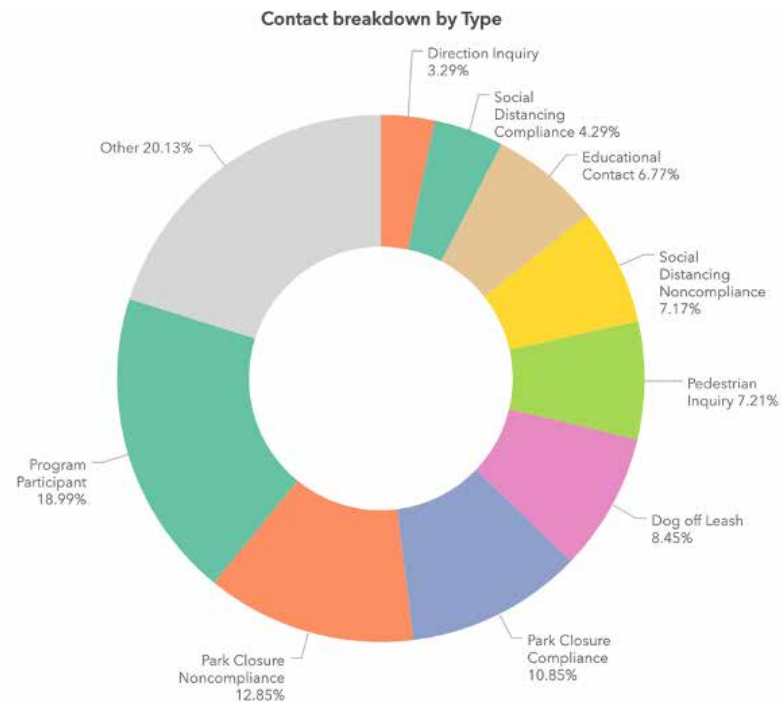
872.5
Hours of Class



53,496
Total Contacts
with Public



20,629
COVID-19
Related Contacts



BARTON CREEK GREENBELT

Leave No Trace Hot Spot Event

March 3-7 2020, the City of Austin, in conjunction with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, created a week-long awareness campaign comprised of outreach programs and Leave No Trace certification classes. The goal of the event was to raise awareness for critical environmental impacts caused by overuse, and to begin the process of finding solutions.

Park Rangers hosted a sitewide clean-up of the Greenbelt on It's My Park Day in partnership with The Trail Foundation, Shoal Creek Conservancy, Barton Springs Conservancy, Save our Springs, and other PARD Partners. In total, the Leave No Trace Hotspot event logged over 400 participants and volunteers, and over 30 hours of Park Ranger-led programs.



March 2020

Reservation Pilot Program

The Barton Creek Greenbelt is an iconic element of Austin, with over 2,000 acres of shared green space. Park Rangers regularly visit the site, and data shows that dogs off leash, smoking, and alcohol are some of the most frequent rule violations. In addition, Travis County EMS reports responding regularly to people who have injured themselves, or are lost and need assistance.

The Parks and Recreation Department piloted a reservation system to manage access at the Barton Creek Greenbelt, in line with Austin Public Health guidelines. The pilot reservation program was active from August through the end of October. Preliminary results showed that the reservation system was popular, often with 100% of online reservations full. While the reservations were popular, only about 20% of those with a reservation actually arrived to enjoy the Greenbelt.



Ranger Cadet Program

The ranger cadet program works to increase equity in outdoor careers by helping participants gain a sense of their own power to be leaders and stewards of Austin's parks and communities. This year, rangers welcomed two cadet graduates as full time rangers and 75% of cadet students were placed at temporary jobs over the summer. Cadets provided 459 hours of service learning on parkland. Throughout the program, young leaders presented on racial equity in the outdoors and youth leadership at Texas Outdoor Education Association Summit, American Public Gardens Association Summit, and the City of Austin's Equity Space Event.



Mammoth Tooth Exhibit

Exhibits under production include a display for a mammoth tooth found by a citizen, upgrades to the displays in the Naturalist Workshop, sound ecosystem interactive exhibit in the Solarium, and creation of new digital signage in the Small Wonders exhibit in coordination with staff from the Sheffield Education Center and wildlife exhibits volunteers.

Barton Creek Time Stream Exhibit

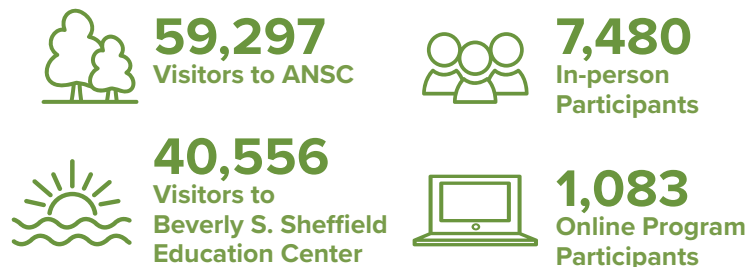
Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center staff worked with Karen Kocher and Monica Flores to bring Barton Creek Time Stream exhibit to the rotunda of the Barton Springs Bathhouse in April 2020. This exhibition explores the 50 years of environmental activism that led to the creation of Barton Creek Greenbelt and celebrates individuals that worked to preserve an iconic natural resource that citizens of Austin continue to enjoy today.



Site Improvements

Site improvements completed or started in FY20 include: a comprehensive audit for a site-wide signage overhaul, shade in the Dino Pit with help from the Friends of ANSC group, relocation of the Observation Beehive to the large exhibit hall, and sound abatement panels in the multipurpose room.

ANSC also used \$70k in funding from Austin Parks Foundation to install lighting and irrigation for landscaping on the entry trail. In addition, Phase I of the gate and fence project was completed with the installation of two automatic gates on Nature Center Drive.



Wildlife Collections

ANSC wildlife keepers continued to provide quality daily care for 50 animal species that live on exhibit and in the program animal ambassador room. The Wildlife Area implemented extra safety measures to keep both staff and ANSC animals safe, including COVID-susceptible species like Moxi, the bobcat and Clara and Fiona, the ferrets.

There are over 140 individual animals (including non-releasable native species and domestic and exotic species) that are typically viewed by the public, on exhibit and in programs. In FY20, 23 ambassador animal species assisted in connecting children to nature (in-person or virtually) 715 times during programming.



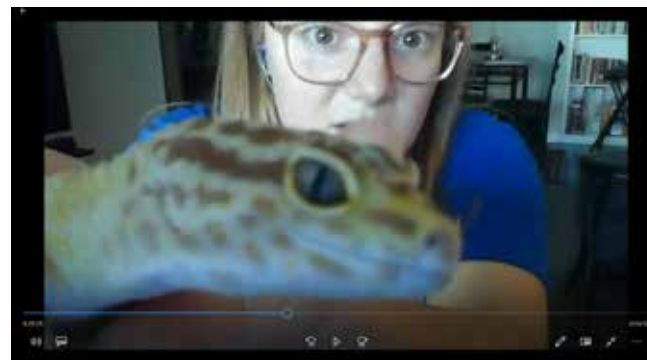
Fall / Winter 2019-2020

Programming for Kids

In order to meet the needs of the students enrolled in Nature's Way Preschool during the COVID-19 stay at home orders, staff created an eight-part Early Childhood Educator YouTube Series. The series was shared by nature based education organizations in New Hampshire, Arkansas, as well as the Children in Nature Network.

For school-age kids, staff implemented virtual Zoom programs for school groups; virtually visiting with over 400 participants. From October 1, 2019 - March 2020, the center had 4,820 in person participants for school programs aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards.

Public programs planned 1,500 hours of summer camp programming and when canceled planned enrichment programming for the Stay Active Camps at the Recreation Centers, Nature Center in the Park programming before all programs were canceled. In-person summer camp was transferred to online programs and reached over 400 campers and families.



1,447
Program Hours
36.5 Hours of Virtual Programs

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Growing Gardens

Several new gardens are in the early stages of the permitting process at Northwest Recreation Center and Dove Springs Recreation Center, with a planned expansion at the St. David's Community Garden.

A new community garden with six beds and two small greenhouses, was established at the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center in August 2020. This garden will be used for youth programming and workshops, with produce donated to community members.

COVID-19

A monthly Community Gardens Webinar Series launched in July to provide guidance and tips for gardeners of all experience levels. More than 100 people attended the virtual presentations.

Supplemental support for food production during COVID was provided in spring and fall, including compost, mulch, seedlings, and seeds to support garden efforts.

The Community Gardens Program Coordinator organized contactless curbside seed giveaways in partnership with the Travis County Extension Service and with the Central Texas Seed Savers. The Central Texas Seed Savers seeds were made available to the general public. In total more than 150 home gardeners received free seeds, which were distributed over one week at three different locations



751
Community Garden Beds
Available to Austin residents



26
Gardens on Parkland
Available to Austin residents

ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN

COVID-19

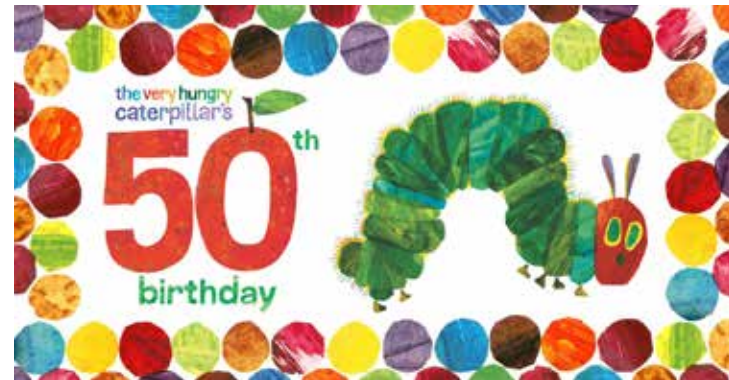
Zilker Botanical Garden (ZBG) closed in March 2020 due to COVID-19, reopening for a short time in June, before closing again in July. The Garden reopened in September and continues to be a respite for a nature escape and a beloved spot for many Austinites, visitors, and guests. During the closure, reduced foot traffic led to a resurgence of wildlife, with hawks, snakes, lizards, and other wildlife joining the ring-tailed cat who took up residence in the thatch above the Taniguchi Tea Pavilion.

66,863
Visitors
Closed 5 1/2 months
during peak visitation.

362
Free Admissions
via Museums for All

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

ZBG created an exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of The Very Hungry Caterpillar, in partnership with Penguin Random House. The exhibit was installed in the Children's Garden, reactivating a neglected area.



Woodland Faerie Trail

The Woodland Faerie Trail was installed as in years past, although garden closures prevented full access to the exhibit or hosting of Moonlight Night events.

LORRAINE "GRANDMA" CAMACHO ACTIVITY CENTER



January 2020



Fall / Winter 2019-2020



Youth & Teen Programs

Dirt Divas

The group had 105 participants and over 35 meetings. Female participants engaging in outdoor adventure, nature exploration and environmental education with female staff and field experts.

Teen Mountain Bike Race Team

20+ teens competed against hundreds of student athletes across Texas.

Learn 2 Ride

Taught 75+ new riders how to ride a bike over the course of 14 meetings.

Film Camps

Produced short films and documentaries with local youth.

200+ Hours Outdoor outreach for recreation centers, schools, and community organizations.

Adaptive Programs

Active Adults

+ Hiked 40+ miles of Central Texas Trails
+ Kayaked 70+ miles of Central Texas rivers



105
Senior Adult
Participants

Youth Programs

Delivered in-school adaptive recreation programs for students at Martin Middle school and Blazier Elementary reaching 30+ students a week.

Camacho's Nature Immersion Program works weekly, on-campus with students enrolled in AISD "Life Skills" class for students with special needs.



16
Virtual Clubs &
80+ Hours of
Programming

Virtual programming included:
Two Wheel Tips an ongoing video series for at-home bike maintenance,
Virtual Film Clubs which can be found on Camacho's YouTube page, and a variety of after school youth, family, and adult virtual programs such as nature club and cooking classes!



50
Bikes
Repaired

To keep Austin rolling during the pandemic, Camacho offered free bike repairs to families.

HISTORIC CEMETERIES

Cemetery Operations staff have been working throughout the pandemic as last responders to serve our community in an often-forgotten industry. And, much like the funeral homes we work with, staff have shifted procedures that used to be done in the offices to phone calls and emails in order to make arrangements with families for interments and space sales.

Along with the ongoing mowing and edging that's needed for each of the cemeteries, the maintenance team has been setting monuments, and generally improving grounds operation and maintenance by improving the accuracy of services provided, production, and developing new processes for monuments.

Cemetery Operations engaged the PARD Graffiti Removal team in September, working in stages to clean spray paint with the help of some family members related to those whose headstones were defaced, in Evergreen Cemetery. Staff are in the process of contacting the affected families impacted by the graffiti to confirm the restoration process.



Municipal Cemeteries:

- Austin Memorial Park Cemetery
- Evergreen Cemetery
- Oakwood Cemetery
- Oakwood Annex Cemetery
- Plummers Cemetery

Services Available

- Interment services
- Pre-need planning
- Grave location and genealogical research
- Monument setting and leveling
- Grave liner sales
- Invertible vase sale and installation

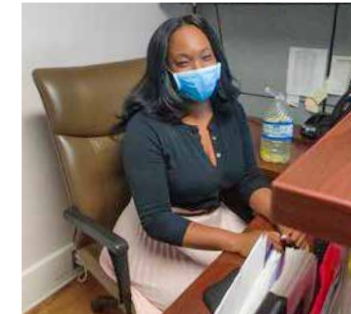
Family Cemeteries:

- Cemetery at Longview Park
- Stanley-Nolen Cemetery at Garrison Park

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- New Parks Grounds Manager hired to oversee all Grounds Operations
- New Program Manager hired to facilitate public programming in the City cemeteries
- Installed informational signage at Longview Cemetery
- Installed Gant Family Official Texas Historical Marker (OTHM) at Oakwood Cemetery Annex
- Restored the Abner Cook Official Texas Historical Marker during a workshop led by the PARD Graffiti Team
- Collaborated with Save Austin's Cemeteries to reset footstones at Oakwood Cemetery
- Supported Cemetery Improvement Projects including the refinishing of the Swante Palm OTHM and the Hogg Lot clean-up
- Created new co-branding with PARD
- Record number of volunteers for It's My Park Day (over 150) who raked, planted, mulched, and documented headstones for the BillionGraves project
- Historical biographies published on social media and on Cemetery Operations blog
- Collaborated with Oakwood Cemetery Chapel virtual exhibits and Chapel symposium

Cemetery Operations continues to complete improvement projects, serve and engage the community, and expand its staff.



\$2.9M
Operating Budget



200+
Acres of Cemeteries



80k
Graves



506
Interments in FY20



5
Historic Buildings



25
Full Time Staff



austintexas.gov/parks